THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Brahmaputra river as National Waterway

163. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for declaring the Brahmaputra river in Assam as National Waterway; and

(b) if so, the deatils thereof and by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) A study on the traffic potential and economic viability of river services on the river Brahmaputra has already been completed. The hydrographic surveys of the river are in progress. A decision on declaration of Brahmaputra as National Waterway could be taken only after the hydrographic surveys are completed.

Eradication of Malaria

164. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that malaria has been eradicated from the country;

(b) if not, which of the State are still affected by Malaria;

(c) what is the number of deaths caused by malaria and encephalitis in Assam during the last six months; and

(d) the steps being taken to eradicate malaria from Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Most of the country except areas above 5000 ft. sea level and coastal areas in Kerala is affected with malaria. According to the latest malaria situation reports received from the State Health Authorities, there is a decline of 8.98 per cent in total malaria cases in 1986 as compared to that during the corresponding period of 1985. However, there is slight increase in the number of malaria cases during this period in some States/Union Territories like Assam, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, West Bengal, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Goa Daman & Diu and Mizoram.

(c) 26 deaths due to malaria in Assam have been reported during April—July, 1986 and 320 deaths due to Japanese Encephalitis have been reported from Assam.

(d) Necessary measures which include insecticidal spray operations, surveillance, preventive and radical treatment etc. are being taken to contain the spread of malaria in the country. In addition, the following specific measures have been undertaken to contain the disease in Assam:—

1. Active and passive surveillance activities have been strengthened.

2. Blood examination and treatment facilities have been toned up.

3. Deployment of additional spray squads for insecticidal spray.

4. Health education activities have been intensified.

मुफ्त रेलवे पास

165. **श्री मंजूर इर्शादबेग** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कितने व्यक्तियों को अब तक मुफ्त रेलवे पास जारी किये गये हैं और ये पास किस तारीख तक वैध हैं; और